

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
FIRST GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

AUDIT REFERRAL: AR 17-04
DATE REFERRED: April 6, 2017
DATE OF NOTIFICATION: April 6, 2017
DATE OF LAST RESPONSE: None
DATE ACTIVATED: May 3, 2017

ELECTION CYCLE: 2012
EXPIRATION OF SOL: January 14, 2016 to
January 31, 2018

SOURCE: AUDIT REFERRAL
RESPONDENTS: Kansas Democratic Party and Bill Hutton
in his official capacity as treasurer
**RELEVANT STATUTES
AND REGULATIONS:** 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)
11 C.F.R. § 106.7(d)(1)
INTERNAL REPORTS CHECKED: Audit Documents
Disclosure Reports
FEDERAL AGENCIES CHECKED: None

I. INTRODUCTION

This matter was generated by a Commission audit of the Kansas Democratic Party ("Committee") covering the period of January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2012. On March 22, 2017, the Commission approved the Final Audit Report,¹ and the Audit Division referred two findings to the Office of General Counsel ("OGC") for possible enforcement action: (1) misstatement of financial activity in 2012;² and (2) recordkeeping for employees in 2011

¹ See Attach. 1, Final Audit Report.

² The Final Audit Report's finding regarding misstatement of financial activity also included financial activity in 2011.

1 and 2012. OGC notified the Committee of the referral, but the Committee did not file a
2 response. Based on the discussion below and the facts, analysis, and findings set forth in the
3 Final Audit Report, which is incorporated by reference, we recommend that the Commission find
4 reason to believe that the Committee violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b) by misstating financial
5 activity in 2012, and violated 11 C.F.R. § 106.7(d)(1) by failing to maintain monthly payroll logs
6 in 2011 and 2012. Additionally, we recommend that the Commission authorize pre-probable
7 cause conciliation.

8 II. FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

9 A. Misstatement of Financial Activity

10 The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, requires committee treasurers
11 to file reports of receipts and disbursements in accordance with the provisions of 52 U.S.C.
12 § 30104(b). The Audit staff reconciled the Committee's reported financial activity with its bank
13 records and determined that in 2012, the Committee understated its reported receipts by
14 \$122,088 and understated its reported disbursements by \$162,640.³ The Committee materially
15 corrected its misstatements during the audit process by amending the relevant reports in August
16 2016.⁴ In its Final Audit Report, the Commission found that the Committee misstated financial
17 activity by a total amount of \$284,728 in 2012.⁵ Accordingly, we recommend that the
18 Commission find reason to believe that the Committee violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b).

³ See Attach. 1 at 12. The Committee's understated receipts consisted of \$12,725 in in-kind contributions not reported as a receipt, \$66,279 in transfers from the non-federal account not reported, \$46,677 in receipts not reported, \$3,350 in reported receipts not supported by deposit documentation or credit, and \$243 in unexplained differences. *Id.* The Committee's understated disbursements consisted of \$12,725 in in-kind contributions not reported as a disbursement, \$1,993 in Act Blue fees not reported, \$217,681 in disbursements not reported, \$68,318 in disbursements reported not supported by a check or a debit, \$300 in voided checks erroneously reported, and \$1,141 in unexplained differences. *Id.*

⁴ *Id.* at 13.

⁵ See Attach. 1, Final Audit Report at Finding 1.

B. Recordkeeping for Employees

Commission regulations provide that State, district, and local party committees must maintain employee payroll logs. Salaries, wages, and fringe benefits "[paid] to State, district, or local party committee employees who spend 25 percent or less of their compensated time in a given month on Federal election activity or on activity in connection with a Federal election" may be allocated as administrative costs, *i.e.*, may be paid with a combination of funds from the committee's federal and non-federal accounts.⁶ Commission regulations also provide that when allocating salary, wage, and fringe benefit payments, political party committees are required to "keep a monthly log of the percentage of time each employee spends in connection with a Federal election."⁷

As set forth in the Final Audit Report, the Commission found that the Committee failed to maintain monthly payroll logs in the amount of \$321,560 for 2011 and 2012.⁸ Based on the foregoing, we recommend that the Commission find reason to believe that the Committee violated 11 C.F.R. § 106.7(d)(1).

⁶ 11 C.F.R. §§ 106.7(c)(1), (d)(1)(i), and (d)(2).

⁷ 11 C.F.R. § 106.7(d)(1).

⁸ See Attach. 1, Final Audit Report at Finding 2. Payroll amounts are stated net of taxes and benefits.

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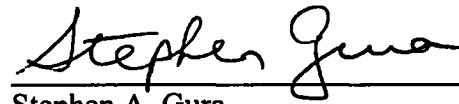
IV. RECOMMENDATIONS


1. Open a MUR in AR 17-04;
 2. Find reason to believe that Kansas Democratic Party and Bill Hutton in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b);
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3. Find reason to believe that Kansas Democratic Party and Bill Hutton in his official capacity as treasurer violated 11 C.F.R. § 106.7(d)(1);
4. Authorize conciliation with Kansas Democratic Party and Bill Hutton in his official capacity as treasurer prior to a finding of probable cause to believe;
5. Approve the attached Conciliation Agreement;
6. Approve the attached Factual and Legal Analysis; and
7. Approve the appropriate letter.

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Delbert K. Rigsby
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5.31.17

Date

Attachments:

1. Final Audit Report
3. Factual and Legal Analysis



Final Audit Report of the Commission on the Kansas Democratic Party

(January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012)

Why the Audit Was Done

Federal law permits the Commission to conduct audits and field investigations of any political committee that is required to file reports under the Federal Election Campaign Act (the Act). The Commission generally conducts such audits when a committee appears not to have met the threshold requirements for substantial compliance with the Act.¹ The audit determines whether the committee complied with the limitations, prohibitions and disclosure requirements of the Act.

Future Action

The Commission may initiate an enforcement action, at a later time, with respect to any of the matters discussed in this report.

About the Campaign (p. 3)

The Kansas Democratic Party is a state party committee headquartered in Topeka, Kansas. For more information, see the chart on committee organization, p. 2.

Financial Activity (p. 4)

• Receipts

○ Contributions from Individuals	\$ 475,045
○ Contributions from Political Committees	94,475
○ Transfers from Other Political Committees	258,668
○ Transfers from Non-Federal Accounts	356,727
○ Transfer of Levin Funds	14,400
○ Other Receipts	43,164
Total Receipts	\$ 1,242,479

• Disbursements

○ Allocable Federal/Non Federal Expenditures	\$ 865,494
○ Federal Operating Expenditures	257,869
○ Federal Election Activity	97,884
○ Transfers to Non-Federal Accounts	37,706
○ Allocated Federal/Levin Activity	25,575
Total Disbursements	\$ 1,284,528

Commission Findings (p. 5)

- Misstatement of Financial Activity (Finding 1)
- Recordkeeping for Employees (Finding 2)
- Reporting of Debts and Obligations (Finding 3)
- Levin Funds Activity (Finding 4)

¹ 52 U.S.C. §30111(b).

Final Audit Report of the Commission on the Kansas Democratic Party

(January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2012)



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Part I

Background

Authority for Audit

This report is based on an audit of the Kansas Democratic Party (KDP), undertaken by the Audit Division of the Federal Election Commission (the Commission) in accordance with the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the Act). The Audit Division conducted the audit pursuant to 52 U.S.C. §30111(b), which permits the Commission to conduct audits and field investigations of any political committee that is required to file a report under 52 U.S.C. §30104. Prior to conducting any audit under this subsection, the Commission must perform an internal review of reports filed by selected committees to determine if the reports filed by a particular committee meet the threshold requirements for substantial compliance with the Act. 52 U.S.C. §30111(b).

Scope of Audit

Following Commission-approved procedures, the Audit staff evaluated various risk factors and as a result, this audit examined:

1. the receipt of contributions from prohibited sources;
2. the disclosure of individual contributors' occupation and name of employer;
3. the disclosure of disbursements, debts and obligations;
4. the disclosure of expenses allocated between federal and non-federal accounts;
5. the consistency between reported figures and bank records;
6. the completeness of records;
7. the disclosure of independent expenditures; and
8. other committee operations necessary to the review.

Commission Guidance

Request for Early Commission Consideration of a Legal Question

Pursuant to the Commission's "Policy Statement Establishing a Program for Requesting Consideration of Legal Questions by the Commission," several state party committees unaffiliated with KDP requested early consideration of a legal question raised during audits covering the 2010 election cycle. Specifically, the Commission addressed whether monthly time logs under 11 CFR §106.7(d)(1) were required for employees paid with 100 percent federal funds.

The Commission concluded, by a vote of 5-1, that 11 CFR §106.7(d)(1) does require committees to keep a monthly log for employees paid exclusively with federal funds. Exercising its prosecutorial discretion, however, the Commission decided it will not pursue recordkeeping violations for the failure to keep time logs or to provide affidavits to account for employee salaries paid with 100 percent federal funds and reported as such. The Audit staff informed KDP representatives of the payroll requirement and the Commission's decision not to pursue recordkeeping violations for failure to keep payroll logs for salaries paid and correctly reported as 100 percent federal. This audit report does not include any findings or recommendations with respect to KDP employees paid with 100 percent federal funds and reported as such.

Audit Hearing

KDP declined the opportunity for a hearing before the Commission on the matters presented in this report.

Part II

Overview of Committee

Committee Organization

Important Dates	
• Date of Registration	December 31, 1976
• Audit Coverage	January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2012
Headquarters	
Topeka, Kansas	
Bank Information	
• Bank Depositories	One
• Bank Accounts	Five Federal, Two Non-federal, One Levin
Treasurer	
• Treasurer When Audit Was Conducted	Mathew Watkins (June 30, 2011 – June 17, 2015) Tobias Schlingensiepen (June 18, 2015 – October 25, 2016) Joan Wagnon (October 26, 2016 – March 19, 2017) Bill Hutton (March 20, 2017 to Present)
• Treasurer During Period Covered by Audit	Dan Lykins (January 1, 2011 - June 29, 2011) Mathew Watkins (June 30, 2011 – December 31, 2012)
Management Information	
• Attended Commission Campaign Finance Seminar	Yes
• Who Handled Accounting and Recordkeeping Tasks	Paid and Volunteer staff

Overview of Financial Activity (Audited Amounts)

Cash-on-hand @ January 1, 2011	\$ 81,067
Receipts	
○ Contributions from Individuals	475,045
○ Contributions from Political Committees	94,475
○ Transfers from Other Political Committees	258,668
○ Transfers from Non-Federal Accounts	356,727
○ Transfer of Levin Funds	14,400
○ Other Receipts	43,164
Total Receipts	\$ 1,242,479
Disbursements	
○ Allocable Federal/Non Federal Expenditures	865,494
○ Federal Operating Expenditures	257,869
○ Federal Election Activity	97,884
○ Transfers to Non-Federal Accounts	37,706
○ Allocated Federal/Levin Activity	25,575
Total Disbursements	\$ 1,284,528
Cash-on-hand @ December 31, 2012	\$ 39,018

The Commission approved a finding that KDP did not disclose debts and obligations to six vendors totaling \$53,556 on Schedule D. (For more detail, see p. 12.)

Finding 4. Levin Funds Activity

During audit fieldwork, a review of KDP's reports revealed that KDP did not file any Schedules L (Aggregation Page: Levin Funds), L-A (Itemized Receipts of Levin Funds), or L-B (Itemized Disbursements of Levin Funds), but reported Levin funds transfers to KDP's federal accounts on Schedule H5 (Transfers of Levin Funds Received for Allocated Federal Election Activity) and the Levin share of disbursements on Schedule H6 (Disbursements of Federal and Levin Funds for Allocated Federal Election Activity). The Levin funds activity did not pass through the bank account designated for Levin funds by KDP and no accounting records were provided for the Levin funds activity. In response to the Interim Audit Report recommendation, KDP filed amended reports to materially correct the disclosure of Levin funds activity. In response to the Draft Final Audit Report, KDP had no further comments.

The Commission approved a finding that KDP did not fail to report Levin funds activity. (For more detail, see p. 13.)

Part IV

Commission Findings

Finding 1. Misstatement of Financial Activity

Summary

During audit fieldwork, a comparison of KDP's reported financial activity with its bank records revealed misstatements of cash-on-hand, receipts, and disbursements for 2011 and 2012. KDP understated its reported beginning cash-on-hand, receipts, and disbursements in 2011 by \$28,845, \$27,004, and \$64,670, respectively. KDP overstated the reported ending cash-on-hand in 2011 and beginning cash-on-hand in 2012 by \$8,571. KDP understated its receipts and disbursements in 2012 by \$122,088, and 162,640, respectively. KDP overstated its reported ending cash-on-hand in 2012 by \$58,065. In response to the Interim Audit Report recommendation, KDP amended its disclosure reports to materially correct the misstatements for calendar years 2011 and 2012. In response to the Draft Final Audit Report, KDP had no further comments.

The Commission approved a finding that KDP misstated its financial activity for calendar years 2011 and 2012.

Legal Standard

Contents of Federal Reports. Each report must disclose:

- the amount of cash-on-hand at the beginning and end of the reporting period;
- the total amount of receipts for the reporting period and for the calendar year;
- the total amount of disbursements for the reporting period and for the calendar year, and;
- certain transactions that require itemization on Schedule A (Itemized Receipts) or Schedule B (Itemized Disbursements). 52 U.S.C. §30104 (b)(1),(2),(3),(4) and (5).

If the committee makes allocated disbursements for federal election activities using Levin funds:

- the total amount of each transfer of Levin funds from its Levin or non-federal account, to its federal account, and each transfer from its federal account and its Levin or non-federal account into an allocation account, for the purpose of making such disbursements, and;
- the total amount of each disbursement allocated between Federal funds and Levin funds, the full name and address of each person to whom the disbursement was made, the date of the disbursement, amount, and purpose of the disbursement and the total amount for the calendar year for each category of federal activity. 11 CFR §300.36 (b)(2)(ii) and (iii).

Facts and Analysis

A. Facts

During audit fieldwork, the Audit staff reconciled KDP's reported financial activity with its bank records for the calendar years 2011 and 2012 and identified misstatements in

cash-on-hand, receipts, and disbursements. The following charts outline the discrepancies and succeeding paragraphs explain, to the extent possible, the reasons for the misstatements.

2011 Activity			
	Reported	Bank Records	Discrepancy
Opening Cash Balance @ January 1, 2011	\$52,222	\$81,067	(\$28,845) Understated
Receipts	\$463,997	\$491,001	(\$27,004) Understated
Disbursements	\$487,760	\$552,430	(\$64,670) Understated
Ending Cash Balance @ December 31, 2011	\$28,209 ²	\$19,638	\$8,571 Overstated

In 2011, the understatement of receipts resulted from the following:

• In-kind contributions not reported as a receipt	\$11,682
• In-kind contributions reported, but not received	(2,545)
• Transfers from the non-federal accounts not reported	9,206
• Receipts not reported	9,037
• Reported receipts not supported by deposit documentation or credit	(9,981)
• Contribution refund reported as a negative receipt	10,000
• Unexplained differences	<u>(395)</u>
Net Understatement of Receipts	<u>\$27,004</u>

In 2011, the understatement of disbursements resulted from the following

• In-kind contributions not reported as a disbursement	\$11,682
• In-kind contributions reported, but not received	(2,545)
• Disbursements not reported	66,690
• Disbursements reported not supported by a check or a debit	(11,734)
• Unexplained differences	<u>577</u>
Net Understatement of Disbursements	<u>\$64,670</u>

² KDP miscalculated its ending cash balance. It should be \$28,459 (a difference of \$250). Using the correct ending cash balance (\$28,459), the discrepancy is \$8,821.

2012 Activity			
	Reported	Bank Records	Discrepancy
Opening Cash Balance @ January 1, 2012	\$28,209	\$19,638	\$8,571 Overstated
Receipts	\$629,390	\$751,478	(\$122,088) Understated
Disbursements	\$569,458	\$732,098	(\$162,640) Understated
Ending Cash Balance @ December 31, 2012	\$97,083 ³	\$39,018	\$58,065 Overstated

In 2012, the understatement of receipts resulted from the following:

- In-kind contributions not reported as a receipt \$12,725
- Transfers from the non-federal accounts not reported 66,279
- Receipts not reported 46,677
- Reported receipts not supported by deposit documentation or credit (3,350)
- Unexplained differences (243)
- Net Understatement of Receipts** **\$122,088**

In 2012, the understatement of disbursements resulted from the following

- In-kind contributions not reported as a disbursement \$12,725
- ActBlue fees not reported 1,993
- Disbursements not reported 217,681
- Disbursements reported not supported by a check or a debit (68,318)⁴
- Voided checks erroneously reported (300)
- Unexplained differences (1,141)
- Net Understatement of Disbursements** **\$162,640**

The misstatement of the beginning and ending cash balances resulted from prior year misstatements and the misstatements described above.

B. Interim Audit Report & Audit Division Recommendation

At the exit conference, the Audit staff presented the misstatements and provided schedules to KDP representatives. The representatives agreed to review the misstatement amounts and amend after the issuance of the Interim Audit Report.

The Interim Audit Report recommended that KDP correct these discrepancies on the public record.

C. Committee Response to Interim Audit Report

In response to the Interim Audit Report recommendation, KDP amended its disclosure reports to materially correct the misstatements for both 2011 and 2012 reports.

³ KDP miscalculated its ending cash balance. It should be \$88,141 (a difference of \$8,942). Using the correct ending cash balance (\$88,141), the discrepancy is \$49,123.

⁴ This amount includes \$14,400 over reported on Schedule H6 (see Finding 4).

D. Draft Final Audit Report

The Draft Final Audit Report acknowledged that KDP amended its disclosure reports to materially correct the misstatements for both 2011 and 2012.

E. Committee Response to the Draft Final Audit Report

In response to the Draft Final Audit Report, KDP had no further comments.

Commission Conclusion

On February 8, 2017, the Commission considered the Audit Division Recommendation Memorandum in which the Audit staff recommended that the Commission find that KDP misstated its financial activity for calendar years 2011 and 2012.

The Commission approved the Audit staff's recommendation.

Finding 2. Recordkeeping for Employees

Summary

During audit fieldwork, the Audit staff determined that KDP did not maintain any monthly payroll logs, as required, to document the percentage of time each employee spent in connection with a federal election. For 2011 and 2012, the Audit staff identified payments to KDP employees totaling \$332,755, for which KDP did not maintain monthly payroll logs. This included \$314,595 for which payroll was allocated with federal and non-federal funds, and \$3,945 paid directly from non-federal funds.

In response to the Interim Audit Report recommendation, KDP's counsel stated that KDP has created procedures to ensure that time logs are created and maintained for all employees paid all or in part with non-federal funds. As such, KDP has complied with the Interim Audit Report recommendation by implementing a plan to maintain monthly payroll logs. In response to the Draft Final Audit Report, KDP had no further comments.

The Commission approved a finding that KDP failed to maintain monthly payroll logs totaling \$321,560, as required, to document the percentage of time each employee spent in connection with a federal election.

Legal Standard

Maintenance of Monthly Logs. Party committees must keep a monthly log of the percentage of time each employee spends in connection with a federal election.

Allocations of salaries, wages, and fringe benefits are to be undertaken as follows:

- employees who spend 25 percent or less of their compensated time in a given month on federal election activities must be paid either from the federal account or be allocated between federal and non-federal funds as administrative costs;
- employees who spend more than 25 percent of their compensated time in a given month on federal election activities must be paid only from a federal account; and,
- employees who spend none of their compensated time in a given month on federal election activities may be paid entirely with funds that comply with state law.

11 CFR §106.7(d)(1).

Facts and Analysis

A. Facts

During audit fieldwork, the Audit staff reviewed disbursements for payroll. KDP did not provide any monthly payroll logs or equivalent records to the Audit staff to document the percentage of time each employee spent in connection with a federal election. These logs are required to document the proper allocation of federal and non-federal funds used to pay employee salaries and wages. For 2011 and 2012, KDP did not maintain monthly logs for \$321,560 in payroll.⁵ This amount includes payroll paid as follows to KDP employees:

- i. Employees reported on Schedule H4 (Disbursements for Allocated Federal/Non-Federal Activity) and paid with federal and non-federal funds during the same month (totaling \$314,595); and
- ii. Employees reported on Schedule H4 and/or Schedule B and also paid with 100 percent non-federal funds during the same month (totaling \$6,965)

B. Interim Audit Report & Audit Division Recommendation

The Audit staff discussed the recordkeeping requirement with KDP representatives during audit fieldwork and at the exit conference. Subsequently, KDP representatives stated that the executive director of KDP received weekly emails from staff describing in detail what they had worked on for that week. To date, the Audit staff has not received copies of those emails.

In response to the exit conference, KDP submitted affidavits stating that none of the employees whose payroll was reported on Schedule H4 spent more than 25% of their time working on activity in connection with a federal election or on federal election activities.

The Interim Audit Report recommended that KDP provide evidence that it maintained monthly time logs to document the percentage of time an employee spent in connection with a federal election; or implement a plan to maintain monthly payroll logs in the future.

C. Committee Response to Interim Audit Report

In response to the Interim Audit Report recommendation, KDP's counsel stated that KDP has created procedures to ensure that time logs are created and maintained for all employees paid all or in part with non-federal funds. As such, KDP has complied with the Interim Audit Report recommendation by implementing a plan to maintain monthly payroll logs.

D. Draft Final Audit Report

The Draft Final Audit Report acknowledged that KDP did not maintain monthly payroll logs during the audit cycle totaling \$321,560, but has implemented a plan to maintain monthly payroll logs in the future.

⁵ This total does not include payroll for employees paid with 100 percent federal funds and reported as such (See Part I, Commission Guidance, Request for Early Consideration of a Legal Question – Recordkeeping for Employees, Page 1). Payroll amounts are stated net of taxes and benefits.

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E. Committee Response to the Draft Final Audit Report

In response to the Draft Final Audit Report, KDP had no further comments.

Commission Conclusion

On February 8, 2017, the Commission considered the Audit Division Recommendation Memorandum in which the Audit staff recommended that the Commission find that KDP failed to maintain monthly payroll logs totaling \$321,560, as required, to document the percentage of time each employee spent in connection with a federal election.

The Commission approved the Audit staff's recommendation.

Finding 3. Reporting of Debts and Obligations

Summary

During audit fieldwork, the Audit staff's review of KDP's disbursements indicated that debts owed to six vendors totaling \$53,556 were not disclosed on Schedule D (Debts and Obligations) as required. In response to the Interim Audit Report recommendation, KDP amended its disclosure reports to materially correct the disclosure of debts and obligations to these vendors. In response to the Draft Final Audit Report, KDP had no further comments.

The Commission approved a finding that KDP did not disclose debts and obligations to six vendors totaling \$53,556 on Schedule D.

Legal Standard

A. Continuous Reporting Required. A political committee must disclose the amount and nature of outstanding debts and obligations until those debts are extinguished.

52 U.S.C. §30104(b)(8) and 11 CFR §§104.3(d) and 104.11(a).

B. Separate Schedules. A political committee must file separate schedules for debts owed by and to the committee with a statement explaining the circumstances and conditions under which each debt and obligation was incurred or extinguished.

11 CFR §104.11(a).

C. Itemizing Debts and Obligations.

- Once it has been outstanding 60 days from the date incurred, a debt of \$500 or less must be reported on the next regularly scheduled report.
- A debt exceeding \$500 must be disclosed in the report that covers the date on which the debt was incurred, except reoccurring administrative expenses (such as rent) shall not be reported as a debt before the payment due date.

11 CFR §104.11(b).

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Facts and Analysis

A. Facts

During audit fieldwork, the Audit staff used available disbursement records to reconcile the accounts⁶ of KDP's vendors. These vendors provided KDP with compliance software, voter ID calls, email services, focus groups, office space, and printing services. KDP did not report any debts on Schedule D.

The Audit staff identified debts owed to six of KDP's vendors totaling \$53,556 that were not reported on Schedule D as required.

B. Interim Audit Report & Audit Division Recommendation

The Audit staff presented this matter to KDP representatives at the exit conference and provided schedules detailing the unreported debts for each reporting period. In response to the exit conference, KDP agreed to file amendments to correct the disclosure of debts after the issuance of the Interim Audit Report. The Interim Audit Report recommended that KDP correct the public record by disclosing the debts and obligations totaling \$53,556.

C. Committee Response to Interim Audit Report

In response to the Interim Audit Report recommendation, KDP amended its disclosure reports to materially correct the disclosure of debts and obligations to these vendors.

D. Draft Final Audit Report

The Draft Final Audit Report acknowledged that KDP filed amended reports to materially correct the reporting of debts and obligations.

E. Committee Response to the Draft Final Audit Report

In response to the Draft Final Audit Report, KDP had no further comments.

Commission Conclusion

On February 8, 2017, the Commission considered the Audit Division Recommendation Memorandum in which the Audit staff recommended that the Commission find that KDP did not disclose debts and obligations to six vendors totaling \$53,556 on Schedule D.

The Commission approved the Audit staff's recommendation.

Finding 4. Levin Funds Activity

Summary

During audit fieldwork, a review of KDP's reports revealed that KDP did not file any Schedules L (Aggregation Page: Levin Funds), L-A (Itemized Receipts of Levin Funds), or L-B (Itemized Disbursements of Levin Funds), but reported Levin funds transfers to

⁶ The reconciliation consisted of calculating invoiced and paid amounts for individual reporting periods in the 2011-2012 election cycle. The Audit staff then determined whether any outstanding debts were correctly disclosed on Schedule D. Each debt amount was counted once, even if it required disclosure over multiple reporting periods.

The Commission approved a finding that KDP did not fail to report Levin funds activity.

A. Reporting. If a state, district or local party committee's combined annual receipts and disbursements for federal election activity (FEA) total \$5,000 or more during the calendar year, the committee must disclose receipts and disbursements of federal funds and Levin funds used for FEA. 11 CFR §300.36 (b)(2).

- The amount of cash-on-hand for Levin funds at the beginning and end of the reporting period;
- The total amount of Levin fund receipts and disbursements (including allocation transfers) for the reporting period and for the calendar year; and
- Certain transactions that require itemization on Schedule L-A (Itemized Receipts of Levin Funds) or Schedule L-B (Itemized Disbursements of Levin Funds).

11 CFR §300.36 (b)(2).

- One or more federal accounts established in accordance with 11 CFR §103, which must be treated as a separate political committee and be required to comply with the requirements of the Act including the registration and reporting requirements of 11 CFR §§102 and 104.
- Establish at least three separate accounts as follows:
 - One or more Federal accounts;
 - One or more Levin accounts; and
 - One or more Non-Federal accounts.
- Establish two separate accounts in depositories as follows:
 - (i) One or more Federal accounts, and;
 - (ii) An account that must function as both a Non-Federal account and a Levin account. If such an account is used, the State, district, and local party must demonstrate through a reasonable accounting method approved by the Commission (including any method embedded in software provided or approved by the Commission) that whenever such organization makes a disbursement for activities undertaken pursuant to 11 CFR §300.32(b), that organization had received sufficient contributions or Levin funds to make such disbursement. 11 CFR §300.30(c).

D. Recordkeeping for Accounts. All party organizations or committees must keep records of deposits into and disbursements from such accounts, and, upon request, must make such records available for examination by the Commission. 11 CFR §300.30(d).

Facts and Analysis

A. Facts

During audit fieldwork, a review of KDP's disclosure reports revealed that KDP did not file any Schedules L, L-A or L-B, but reported \$14,400 in Levin funds transfers to KDP's federal accounts on Schedule H5 and \$32,684 in Levin funds share of allocable activity on Schedule H6. The Audit staff reconciled KDP's reported federal financial activity with its federal bank records for the calendar years 2011 and 2012 and determined that of the amount reported on Schedule H6, \$14,400 was over-reported (See Finding 1 - Misstatement of Financial Activity).

KDP had a bank account designated for Levin funds activity, and also used a non-federal bank account for Levin funds activity. The Audit staff requested accounting records for the Levin funds activity that was conducted through the non-federal accounts, but no such records were provided. Since the reported Levin funds activity was not transferred through the designated Levin bank account, the Audit staff asked KDP for verification that these reported transfers were Levin funds activity. KDP stated that the activity reported on Schedules H5 and H6 was Levin funds activity.

B. Interim Audit Report & Audit Division Recommendation

The Audit staff presented this matter to KDP representatives at the exit conference, provided schedules detailing the amounts reported on Schedules H5 and H6, and requested accounting records for the reported amounts. In response to the exit conference, a KDP representative stated that the failure to file the required schedules was due to a software error, and that KDP would send additional information regarding the Levin donors. The Audit staff did not receive any additional information about the Levin funds activity.

The Interim Audit Report recommended that KDP provide the accounting for the Levin funds that were received in and disbursed from its non-federal bank accounts, and correct the discrepancy of Levin funds activity on the public record.

C. Committee Response to Interim Audit Report

In response to the Interim Audit Report recommendation, KDP amended its disclosure reports to remove the \$14,400 transfer of Levin funds on Schedule H5, and instead report this transfer on Schedule H4 (Disbursements for Allocated Federal/Non-Federal Activity). KDP also provided the Audit staff with a list of the allocable administrative activity for which this transfer was made. The Audit staff verified that the administrative activity was allocable. Furthermore, a KDP representative stated that there was no Levin funds activity during the audit period and that the reported Levin fund activity had been reported in error. As such, the discrepancy of Levin funds activity on the public record has been materially corrected, and no further action is necessary.

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D. Draft Final Audit Report

The Draft Final Audit Report acknowledged that KDP filed amended reports to materially correct its reports and provided documentation to show that no Levin funds activity was conducted.

E. Committee Response to the Draft Final Audit Report

In response to the Draft Final Audit Report, KDP had no further comments.

Commission Conclusion

On February 8, 2017, the Commission considered the Audit Division Recommendation Memorandum in which the Audit staff recommended that the Commission find that KDP did not fail to report Levin funds activity.

The Commission approved the Audit staff's recommendation.

1 **FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

2
3 **FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

4
5 RESPONDENTS: Kansas Democratic Party and
6 Bill Hutton in his official capacity
7 as treasurer
8

MUR _____

9 **I. INTRODUCTION**

10 This matter was generated by a Commission audit of the Kansas Democratic Party
11 (“Committee”) covering the period of January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2012. On
12 March 22, 2017, the Commission approved the Final Audit Report, and the Audit Division
13 referred two findings to the Office of General Counsel (“OGC”) for possible enforcement action:
14 (1) misstatement of financial activity in 2012; and (2) recordkeeping for employees in 2011 and
15 2012. OGC notified the Committee of the referral; the Committee did not file a response. Based
16 on the discussion below and the facts, analysis, and findings set forth in the Final Audit Report,
17 which is incorporated by reference, the Commission found that there is reason to believe that the
18 Committee violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b) by misstating financial activity and violated 11 C.F.R.
19 § 106.7(d)(1) by failing to maintain monthly payroll logs.

20 **II. FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

21 **A. Misstatement of Financial Activity**

22 The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, requires committee treasurers
23 to file reports of receipts and disbursements in accordance with the provisions of 52 U.S.C.
24 § 30104(b). The Audit staff reconciled the Committee’s reported financial activity with its bank
25 records and determined that in 2012, the Committee understated its reported receipts by

1 \$122,088 and understated its reported disbursements by \$162,640.¹ The Committee materially
2 corrected its misstatements during the audit process by amending the relevant reports in August
3 2016.² In its Final Audit Report, the Commission found that the Committee misstated financial
4 activity by a total amount of \$284,728 in 2012.³

5 Based on the foregoing, the Commission found that there is reason to believe that the
6 Committee violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b).

7 **B. Recordkeeping for Employees**

8 Commission regulations provide that State, district, and local party committees must
9 maintain employee payroll logs. Salaries, wages, and fringe benefits “[paid] to State, district, or
10 local party committee employees who spend 25 percent or less of their compensated time in a
11 given month on Federal election activity or on activity in connection with a Federal election”
12 may be allocated as administrative costs; *i.e.*, may be paid with a combination of funds from the
13 committee’s federal and non-federal accounts.⁴ Commission regulations also provide that when
14 allocating salary, wage, and fringe benefit payments, political party committees are required to
15 “keep a monthly log of the percentage of time each employee spends in connection with a

¹ See Final Audit Report at 9. The Committee’s understated receipts consisted of \$12,725 in in-kind contributions not reported as a receipt, \$66,279 in transfers from the non-federal account not reported, \$46,677 in receipts not reported, \$3,350 in reported receipts not supported by deposit documentation or credit, and \$243 in unexplained differences. *Id.* The Committee’s understated disbursements consisted of \$12,725 in in-kind contributions not reported as a disbursement, \$1,993 in Act Blue fees not reported, \$217,681 in disbursements not reported, \$68,318 in disbursements reported not supported by a check or a debit, \$300 in voided checks erroneously reported, and \$1,141 in unexplained differences. *Id.*

² *Id.* at 10.

³ See Final Audit Report at Finding 1.

⁴ 11 C.F.R. §§ 106.7(c)(1), (d)(1)(i), and (d)(2).

1 Federal election.”⁵ As set forth in the Final Audit Report, the Commission found that the
2 Committee failed to maintain monthly payroll logs in the amount of \$321,560 for 2011 and
3 2012.⁶

4 Based on the foregoing, the Commission found that there is reason to believe that the
5 Committee violated 11 C.F.R. § 106.7(d)(1).

⁵ 11 C.F.R. § 106.7(d)(1).

⁶ See Final Audit Report at Finding 2. Payroll amounts are stated net of taxes and benefits.

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